

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 with the following paragraph:

There have been proposed restoration strategies for a packet transfer network composed of a plurality of routers, typically, the Internet. An example of a basic restoration method is to switch an initial route to a restored route when a failure has been detected between routers in the initial route. Such a basic restoration method needs to find a new route as an alternative route at its endpoint router by searching its routing table which is being updated according to the routing protocol. Accordingly, it will take much ~~long~~ longer until restoration. It is difficult to put it in practical use especially in the field of real-time data transmission such as voice and video data transmission.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15 with the following paragraph:

It is further assumed that the packet protection network 203 has a working route from the router 204A to the router 204F through the routers 204B and 204C and a reserved route from the router 204A to the router ~~204F~~ 204E through the routers 204D and 204F. In this example, the respective routers 204A and 204F are also a start-point router and an end-point router of the working and reserved routes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 15 with the following paragraph:

In general, as shown in Fig. 5, a packet 210 has a ~~predetermine~~ predetermined format composed of a header field 291 and a data field 292. Header information including source address X, destination address Y, and data length is stored in the header field 291.